



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

5_29_13 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, May 29, 2013 @ 7:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Molly Flueckiger

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0 with Mr. Robillard abstaining.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No public comments.

Park Signs – Standardizing of Signs

The Commission discussed the standardizing of signs. Mr. Connelly stated that Florence Ave. Park can be the standard going forward and is a good place to start. Mr. Vitters showed the Commission some pictures of entryways at various parks. Defining entryways at each park is a broader issue. Policy decisions need to be made about what should be on the signs. These signs are considered accessory signs and would have to follow Article 7 of the Town's Zoning bylaws. Mr. Connelly will talk with Clara Batchelor to find out who they use for design ideas. Mr. Connelly stated that the sign will need a permit and approval from the Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB).

Spy Pond Mural Sign – Public Art Request

The Arlington Public Art group would like to put up a sign on the fence at Spy Pond Park to acknowledge the mural installed on the Arlington Boys' and Girls' Club. The material would be aluminum and in durable ink for all types of outdoor weather. The Commission agreed that a sign can be put in the bulletin board, as requested; however no permanent signage should be placed in the park.

Park Ranger Proposal

Mr. Connelly met with the Personnel Dept., who was very supportive of the position. Fundraising to pay for the position was discussed. An idea to combine the position with a parking enforcement officer was discussed and viewed very favorably. The Commission felt that this idea is worth pursuing. Any fundraising should happen prior to July of 2014. Ms. Rothenberg will set up a meeting with the Friends of Parks to brainstorm fundraising ideas.

Capital Improvement Update

Florence Avenue Playground – Construction start date is July 8th. Submittals are being reviewed. Clara Batchelor will put together some playground color scheme options for the Commission to review. Mr. Connelly stated that he feels natural tones

look best and don't appear dated.

Buck and Summer Street Field Netting – Mr. Connelly stated that, while posts at Summer St. have been installed, the netting is still on order.

Capital Request for FY 2014 – Nothing will be discussed until September on the ADA Study, Hibbert St. and North Union Spray Pool projects. An electrical line was accidentally cut to the spray pool at North Union. A new line must be installed before the spray pool opens for the season.

Off-Leash Dog Review

Mr. Connelly sent out and posted a memo regarding supervision of children in the off-leash area and received both positive and negative comments. Mr. Connelly printed out rules from other OLRA's. Some with no age restrictions and some with no children under the age of 7, 8 or 12 allowed. Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Canniff stated that safety should be a priority; it is a park for dogs not children. Ms. Mayer stated that she feels that it is a community space for people who choose to recreate with dogs off-leash and that age exclusions would arbitrarily impact families who use the facility appropriately.

Ms. Flueckiger, a member of the Friends group, stated that in her opinion the park is an enjoyable place for families with dogs to share and is a very positive experience for children. She will talk with other dog owners at the park and get their thoughts on this issue to present to the Commission.

Different solutions were discussed including a tag system where the owner signs an acknowledgment of the rules; the possibility of having no children under a certain age allowed on certain days; and/or dog safety education for adults, parents, dog owners and the community. The Friends have discussed taking on the role in educating. The Commission agreed to continue discussions.

Mr. Connelly provided a list of Thorndike OLRA expenses to date.

Special Requests

Friends of Robbins Farm – Live Concert on August 7, 2012. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Carp Anglers Group – Carp Fishing School for Kids on June 29th and June 30th. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink – The sports floor is in and looks great. Roller skating will start Saturday, June 8th. Nets will be coming in for tennis, volleyball and badminton soon.

Recreation – The Reservoir is being prepared for the beach season, which means that the gates to the beach will be locked on Monday, June 3rd and other uses are not allowed. Ms. Mayer asked the other Commissions to think about recommendations for improvements and public input to be discussed at the next meeting.

Commission Liaison Reports

Mr. Connelly provided a list of expiration dates for Commission members. The terms of all Commissioners, except Ms. Canniff, expire at the end of June 2013.

Mr. Connelly received approval for two associate Commission members. The Commission would like to recruit members with an interest in fundraising/grant writing and/or web/technology, and asked Mr. Connelly to investigate the process used by other Town Commissions for appointing associated members.

Other Business

Ms. Mayer distributed some information that she received on PARC Grants and on a Freedom's Way public input session.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation